

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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S E C R E T USNATO 1750

E.O. 11652: GDS-12/31/82

TAGS: PFOR, NATO

SUBJECT: 28 MARCH NPG STAFF GROUP MEETING

REF: (A) USNATO 1453; (B) USNATO 1650; (C) STATE 61506;
(D) NPG(STAFF GROUP) WP(74)5

BEGIN SUMMARY: AT 28 MARCH MEETING, NPG STAFF GROUP DISCUSSED HANDLING OF DRAFT PERM REPS REPORT ON THE ROLE OF THE MILITARY COMMITTEE IN NUCLEAR CONSULTATION. CANADIAN REP ARGUED THAT SUBJECT SHOULD BE REFERRED TO THE DPC, AND MOST OTHER SG REPS AGREED. MISSION BELIEVES THIS APPROACH WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE. SG ALSO DISCUSSED DRAFT PERM REPS REPORT ON THE NPG STUDY ON WARSAW PACT STRATEGY AND DOCTRINE FOR THE TACTICAL USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS. THE DRAFT IS CAST IN THE FORM OF TRANSMITTING TO THE DPC THE STUDY AND AN NPG REPORT ON THE SUBJECT. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON GUIDANCE ON THESE TWO SUBJECTS. END SUMMARY.

1. AT 28 MARCH MEETING, NPG STAFF GROUP (SG) DISCUSSED HANDLING OF THE DRAFT PERM REPS REPORT ON THE ROLE OF THE
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MILITARY COMMITTEE IN NUCLEAR CONSULTATION (REF (A) AND (B)). CANADIAN REP SAID HIS AUTHORITIES WANT THE NPG TO FORWARD THE REPORT TO THE MC VIA THE DPC BECAUSE (1) THEY HAVE SOME DOUBT ABOUT THE CONSTITUTIONAL LINE BETWEEN THE

NPG AND THE MC, (2) ALL COUNTRIES SHOULD BE FORMALLY INVOLVED, AND NOT JUST THE EIGHT MEMBERS OF THE NPG, AND (3) IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR THE DPC TO TAKE ACTION ON A SUBJECT WHICH IS, IN EFFECT, AN AMPLIFICATION OF THE CONSULTATION GUIDELINES WHICH THE DPC PROMULGATED. US, UK, AND ITALIAN REPS SAID THEY DID NOT ENVISION THE SUBJECT BEING SUFFICIENTLY IMPORTANT TO WARRANT DPC ATTENTION. THEY AGREED TO OBTAIN VIEWS OF THEIR AUTHORITIES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SINCE IS WOULD LIKE TO ISSUE THE FINAL DRAFT OF THE REPORT DURING THE WEEK OF 1 APRIL IF POSSIBLE. OTHER SG MEMBERS, INCLUDING FRG, SUPPORTED CANADIAN POSITION.

2. COMMENT: WASHINGTON INSTRUCTIONS (REF (C)) DID NOT PROVIDE SPECIFIC GUIDANCE ON HANDLING OF THIS SUBJECT IN NPG OR DPC, AND THUS US REP DID NOT TAKE A FIRM STAND ON THE POSITION THAT MISSION RECOMMENDED IN PARA 3 OF REF (B). THERE IS CLEAR PREFERENCE ON PART OF MOST MEMBERS OF SG TO REFER SUBJECT TO DPC. SUGSEQUENT TO SG MEETING, UK REP INFORMED US REP THAT HIS AUTHORITIES COULD AGREE TO REFERRING THE SUBJECT TO THE DPC, WITH THE EXPECTATION THAT IT COULD BE HANDLED ON A LOW-KEY BASIS, POSSIBLY BY THE SILENCE PROCEDURE BY DPC PERM REPS. MISSION BELIEVES CANADIAN ARGUMENTS IN PARA 1 ABOVE HAVE SOME VALIDITY, AND THAT SUBJECT COULD BE HANDLED IN LOW-KEY FASHION IN DPC, SINCE THERE APPEARS TO BE GENERAL AGREEMENT ON SUBSTANCE OF THE REPORT. ACCORDINGLY, MISSION RECOMMENDS WASHINGTON AGREEMENT TO APPROACH OF REFERRING SUBJECT TO DPC. TEXT OF DRAFT NPG AND DPC RECOMMENDATIONS PREPARED BY IS FOR CARRYING OUT THIS APPROACH ARE PROVIDED IN PARA 3 BELOW. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON GUIDANCE ON HANDLING OF SUBJECT OF MC ROLE IN CONSULTATION DURING WEEK OF 1 APRIL IN ORDER TO ENABLE IS TO PROCEED WITH PREPARATION AND CIRCULATION OF FINAL DRAFT OF PERM REPS REPORT.

3. BEGIN TEXT PROPOSED RECOMMENDATIONS IN DRAFT PERM REPS REPORT:

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NPG RECOMMENDATIONS

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE (NPG) MINISTERS:

(A) TAKE NOTE OF THIS REPORT;

(B) DISCUSS THE ISSUES RAISED IN THE ATTACHED DRAFT NPG REPORT TO THE DPC;

(C) AGREE THAT THE CONCEPTUAL APPROACH OUTLINED IN THE ATTACHED DRAFT REPORT IS CONSISTENT WITH THE GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR CONSULTATION PROCEDURES ON THE USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS;

(D) CONCUR THAT THE MILITARY COMMITTEE, IN CARRYING OUT ITS FUNCTIONS IN SUPPORT OF THE UCLEAR CONSULTATION PROCESS, SHOULD CONFORM WITH THE CONCEPTUAL APPROACH OUTLINED IN THE ATTACHED DRAFT REPORT;

(E) APPROVE THE DRAFT REPORT; AND

(F) SUBJECT TO ENDORSEMENT BY THE NUCLEAR DEFENSE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, FORWARD THE REPORT TO THE DPC.

DPC RECOMMENDATIONS

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE DPC:

(A) NOTE THIS REPORT;

(B) AGREE THAT ITS CONCEPTUAL APPROACH IS CONSISTENT WITH THE CONSULTATION GUIDELINES;

(C) CONCUR THAT THE MILITARY COMMITTEE, IN CARRYING OUT ITS FUNCTIONS IN SUPPORT OF THE NUCLEAR CONSULTATION PROCESS, SHOULD CONFORM WITH THE CONCEPTUAL APPROACH OUTLINED IN THIS REPORT.

4. SG DISCUSSED DRAFT PERM REPS REPORT (REF (D)) - POUCH TO STATE AND DEFENSE) ON THE NPG STUDY ON WARSAW PACT STRATEGY AND DOCTRINE FOR THE TACTICAL USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS (NPG/STUDY/45). SG MADE ONLY MINOR CHANGES TO SECRET

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DRAFT REPORT.

5. THE DRAFT REPORT IS CAST IN A FORM WHICH PROVIDES FOR THE TRANSMISSION OF THE WARSAW PACT STUDY TO THE DPC ALONG WITH AN NPG REPORT ON THE SUBJECT. RATIONALE IS TO GIVE LARGER DISTRIBUTION TO VIEWS DEVELOPED BY NPG BECAUSE OF RELEVANCE OF SUBJECT TO BROAD RANGE OF NATO ACTIVITIES. IT IS NOT ENVISIONED THAT SUBJECT NEED ACTUALLY BE DISCUSSED BY DPC MINISTERS. MISSION BELIEVES THIS APPROACH HAS MERIT SINCE THE VIEWS IN THE NPG STUDY AND THE DRAFT REPORT ACCORD WITH KEY NATO POLICY GUIDANCE, SUCH AS INITIAL USE GUIDELINES APPROVED BY DPC, AND ARE CONSISTENT WITH US EMPHASIS ON FLEXIBILITY IN OPTIONS FOR USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON COMMENTS AND GUIDANCE ON DRAFT PERM REPS REPORT ON THE WARSAW PACT STUDY (REF (D)), IN PARTICULAR ON QUESTION OF REFERRING SUBJECT TO DPC, PRIOR TO 8 APRIL SG MEETING. RUMSFELD

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